

Ellerker NEWS

Issue No 62
Spring 2013



A roundup of news from around the parish

Parish Boundary Walk 2013

On 5th October we plan a sponsored walk along Ellerker's Parish Boundary for those who live in the village. This will be a healthy, fun, family day out.

It is hoped that those who take part will raise money through sponsorship for one of four local charities and good causes: Dove House, Hull Animal Welfare Trust, Ellerker Playing Fields or Ellerker Village Hall.

The walk is about 16 miles and will start from the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday, 5th October. There will be opportunities to stop for breaks en-route and for those who don't want to walk the full distance, the chance to break from the walk at roughly the half way point. The pace will be easy and we expect to be back at the Village Hall by 4.30pm.

This will be a chance to help others, learn something about the Parish in which we live and to stretch those legs! If you know of anyone from outside the Parish who wishes to join us they will be welcome, but please let us know before the day.

There will be a guide, but your health and safety will be your own responsibility.

More information will be available nearer the time but please, if you are interested, make a note in your diary and let Tim Pickles or Claire Wood know that you plan to take part. Sponsor forms will be available nearer the date.

- CW & TJP

Ellerker Show 2013

Yet again, the dust has settled on our annual (January) Show, which now makes our output a total of forty performances over the past fifteen years. This year's Show was made up of forty-five individual pieces of (mostly musical) variety. Forty-odd (or perhaps that should read 'forty odd?') folk taking part on stage with a further dozen helpers 'behind scenes' contributed to three memorable evenings' entertainment - and with three evenings' excellent audiences this was Community Spirit at its best.

The members of the Production Committee would once again like to congratulate everyone taking a part in the Show, however great or small (the size of the part, that is), and whether 6- or 80+ years in age. Well done, all of you.

Finally, we say a big 'thank-you' from St Anne's Church to all those who contributed to a clear profit of £2468-85....though it has to be said that, with raffle tickets at £1 a strip exactly and tickets at £7, £5 or £4 exactly, one cannot help but wonder where the 'odd 85p' came from....but as has been commented on before, it could only have happened in Dibley - or Ellerker.

- DRW



Parish Council

Street Lighting

Work is now underway to replace Ellerker street lighting with heritage style cast iron swan neck lamposts. When installed, they will be painted dark green, in keeping with the rural environment. The new poles are 'recycled' and may look a bit scruffy initially, but once re-painted they will look fine. This

option was the most economically viable with the funds available. The existing lights will shortly become illegal under EU law and also the timber posts have deteriorated over time.

Parish Precept

As there was a deficit in parish funds to meet the full cost of the new lighting (being £12,769 fully installed by ERYC), it was unfortunately necessary to raise the Parish Precept by a total of £642 to cover the shortfall. Although our reported increase is 19.2% this only actually equates to an average of approximately £5.83 per household in the parish for this year. The PC currently has no reason to expect any future increases to be above the rate of inflation and will try to maintain Ellerker's traditionally very low parish precept.

Parish Emergency Plan

The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch are working together on a plan to deal with village emergencies, e.g. flooding. If anyone is prepared to add their names and landline telephone numbers to an Emergency Contact Directory to be included in the plan (which will be displayed on our website), please contact the Parish Council. Offers of help could include providing emergency shelter, if for example the Village Hall was out of use, or a tractor or 4WD that could be put to use, or perhaps storing sand or sandbags, all would be much appreciated.

New Parish Councillors

A warm welcome to Diana Bushby and Chris Bradley, who are the latest additions to the Parish Council.

Planning

Four British Telecom wooden poles to be replaced

- MM

Playing Fields

Playing fields are now preparing for our Summer Fayre 22nd-23rd June . We are looking for stall holders, so if any one knows someone who has something to sell please contact Philip Wood at Ashley house.

We are always looking for new ideas so please feel free to come forward with any suggestions. Still looking for new committee members anyone fancy joining contact Philip.

- PT

St Anne's

Our Vicar, Peter Faulkner has now retired and we wish him and his wife every happiness in their new home in Lincolnshire. Peter held his last service at Ellerker on January 20th and afterwards we had a leaving party in the village hall where presentations were made to both Peter and Janny on behalf of the village.

We are now in the process of choosing a new vicar and a brochure containing details of the three parishes, South Cave, Ellerker and Broomfleet has been prepared for the information of applicants. The process of choosing a new incumbent is fairly slow and we are unlikely to have a new vicar much before the end of the year. In the meantime our Curate Peter Draper and Lay Reader Tim Greene are taking the services with help from Lay Preacher Dennis Collins.

Our thanks go to all those who attended our Quiz Night at the Family Centre in South Cave. Particular thanks are due to the organisers Neil and Ann Barratt and the ladies who provided such an excellent supper. The event raised over £500 for church funds.

Forthcoming Events:

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| 24th March | Palm Sunday
Holy Communion at
9.30am |
| 31st March | Easter Day
Morning Worship at
9.30am |

- JMT

Women's Institute

For our January meeting we had a very enjoyable post Christmas meal at The Black Horse.

In February Jethro gave us a very interesting talk about chimney sweeps and life in Victorian England. He brought along the most amazing props and stirred memories about tin baths and kitchen ranges.

Our March meeting was Paul Schofield and Hull's Literary Connections. Another great night about Philip Larkin Andrew Marvell and many others.

- MT

Yorkshire Country Women's Association

At the end of last year the members decided that there would not be a meeting in January due to the ever-present risk of bad weather, so our first meeting for 2013 was in February.

At this meeting we were very well entertained by Peter Smales, who members may remember was one of the performers who entertained us in December as part of the group *Occasional Folk*. Peter played at least five different instruments (not all at the same time!) and raised a lot of laughter.

For our March meeting we had an interesting talk by Carol Atkinson on the building of *Straw Houses* of which she and her family had built several, using all locally sourced materials.

We would like to remind all Readers and Members of the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association that the next meeting, on the first Thursday in April, will be our Annual General Meeting.

- PN

Village Hall

The committee has been looking closely at hiring charges and the need to increase these in line with other village halls and also to enable us to balance our books. After much discussion it was decided to increase the hourly rate for regular bookings from £6 to £8 per hour with effect from 1st September 2013.

Our Chairperson reported that funding was still available from *Awards for All* which is part of the Lottery Fund and as result we are investigating the possibility of improving the heating system by installing a more efficient boiler and radiators.

Later in the year the Village Hall will be one of four good causes that



you can choose to support in the sponsored Parish Boundary Walk.

- M&SP

ELLERKER EVENT DIARY APRIL - JUNE

April

3 WI, Village Hall, 7.30 pm
4 YCA AGM, Village Hall, 7.30 pm
11 Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30 pm

May

1 WI, Village Hall, 7.30 pm
2 YCA, Village Hall, 7.30 pm

June

5 WI, Village Hall, 7.30 pm
6 YCA, Village Hall, 7.30 pm
13 Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30 pm
22-23 Summer Fayre, Playing Fields

A Country Walk

Starting at Ring Beck leaving Ellerker, across the old A63 and head for Brantingham. As I walk over the dual carriageway and look down at the speeding vehicles, my thought are how much money must be going into the Government's coffers from the tax on fuel and car-lorry road tax.

Moving on, I notice the red holly berries on the now tall bushes planted on the sloping sides of the flyover and a pollarded willow with black stems. At the ninety degree bend, with the track heading to Woo Dale there is bush with damson type fruit still on at Christmas time, a very dry bitter taste may I say! I think it may be a Bullace.

Walking on towards Brantingham each side of the road has been planted, within the hedgerows, with Horse Chestnut trees spaced apart all the way to the next left junction. These were planted by a landscape firm from Ferriby and sourced from Greens Nursery,

who had grown them to the height of six feet before they sold them to the project. Notice (in spring 2012) flower buds are being formed on the trees that have grown to around twenty feet tall and doing well.

At the junction to the village pond, the rather solid hedge on the left, during the summer wild hops meander their very barbarous shoots within this hedge, with some waving treacherously in your direction. The fruiting bodies can be seen in the late summer, they have a distinctive not unpleasant scent.

Walking past the War memorial and the Triton Inn and over the dual carriage way for the second time, turn left to Elloughton on to the footpath, in late March at the edge of the path see the very strange looking, upright stalks, sticking perpendicular from the otherwise bare earth. These are the flowers of Mares Tail that come before the ferny foliage. Take a left at the next junction and pass over the dual carriageway for the third time using the footbridge heading towards Elloughton Dale.

Don't go up the Dale, Peggy Farrow lane is the place to walk. The local legend of how the lane got its name is that a lady of that name in around the 15th century lived nearby in a shack. She was not called a witch; she healed folk with the herbs that could be gathered in the woods and hedgerows. She was said to always baking and cooking.

Some psychic folk have seen her in that lane, it is also said that some water workers in the lane checking a manhole, when she appeared near them, they left quickly and wouldn't go back again. Another story is of the Quaker graveyard, soon on your left as you head up the slope of the lane, a local man who scrubbed the tomb stones free of moss etc, taking water from his bucket he found the bucket strangely empty of water. He took the bucket and checking that it wasn't leaking, filled it and set about his work again, the water disappeared again. He didn't go back again!

If you still want to go on into Peggy Farrow Lane, go through the gate that must be shut after you, and head up the steady slope before you. Soon on the left is the Quakers graveyard with its descriptive sign at the fence. Go in and study the gravestones, some of the Stewart family are buried there, they built and lived in Ellerker Grange until around 1952. Also notice one grave of William and Anne Stewart, they had lived at Brantingham Grange, Cave Road, Brough. Surrounding this grave are buried, four children who over a three week period died of diphtheria, all young, five and a half, two years seven months, nine months, and only three weeks.

As the top of the slope comes, and things are a bit more level now, turn right and walk through standing columns of the tall straight trunks of Beech and Ash trees, Wow. Eventually turn left following the path and into a different style of woodland, a wild wood, with a narrow pathway with brambles ready to whip your naked legs, (When in Shorts).

Trees growing where- ever they want to, no pattern by man here. Each tree clinched in an embrace of ever-green Ivy climbing helter-skelter fashion up into the heights. Notice also the wild flowering currant (*Ribes Alpina*) growing thickly around.

At the end of the wood turn left and head down Spout Hill. In the open the River Humber can be seen, also note on the right a new wood planted around thirty years ago. See the straight lines of planted Beech etc. Going down now the steep hill, black thorn is in flower (April). Will they give fruit this autumn for Sloe Gin?

About half way down turn right and head down an enclosed path towards Brantingham Church. Along this way look down and see the wild Cherries that are bursting into flower on the far slopes of the valley of Brantingham Dale, trees that have been planted dotted, among the other varieties. Passing the Church a restored sheep dip is on the right, a storyboard is there to reveal the history of it. In the fifties-sixties the Ellerker Beck ran yellow, coloured by the chemicals the sheep where dipped in, this was possibly in the spring after shearing.

Heading on, in the verge Russian Comfrey grows, a perennial with a common name Knit-bone, a plant with large leaves used to bandage broken or strained limbs, also as a fusion to make a drink, (don't take my word, check it out yourself before use).

Snowberry also grows there (*Symphoricarpos*) last winter thousands of ladybirds all gathered on the thin bare branches to hibernate, all crowded together.

At the road turns, go left through the gate and head for Woo Dale by another enclosed path with a fence at either side. Ladybirds where using the fence posts for a winter perch, several on each post. When I walked in March only a few where still around, not dead, some just moving ready to fly off. This is a steep slope and eventually when breathless at the top, Just stand and gaze at the view of the river and fields spread out before you, a reward for the hill you just climbed!

Down hill from now, on the left a couple of Icelandic ponies graze the field, snug with their thick hairy coats. At the bottom of the track swing left, around the farmstead, and note the very modern electric gathering panels on the shed roof.

Through a farm gate and onto what may be called Woo Dale Lane, head homewards past manicured grass verges, Mount Airey is on the right. Towards the end of the lane on the left side is a narrow woodland of huge Beech trees stand; this is where most of the sticking took place (See a previous news sheet).

Now back onto Brantingham road and over the A63 for the forth time and back to Ellerker. Time of walk 2 hours twenty minutes from Ring Beck.

- DG